



Post 28 Newsletter

Published monthly by Post 28 of the American Legion
700 Harbor Avenue • Grand Haven, Michigan 49417
www.grandhavenlegion.org



Issue #1061

POST 28 COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Autumn in West Michigan is the best. Harvest time, leaves changing color, football is everywhere, and there's that smell in the air. Break out the sweat-shirts 'cause it won't be long now.

The Post meeting on September 1st had a pretty good turn out considering its proximity to the Labor Day weekend. Jack Gardner took home the 50/50 loot. As usual, the meeting after the meeting lasted well into the night thanks to Andy's \$1 beer special. Speaking of Andy, he was invited to his first Post meeting and was thanked for the fine job he continues to do. Thanks again Andrew.

5th District Commander Lynn Jolink reported that we have attained 60% of 2010 membership. 50% was the goal. Since Memorial Day we have had 72 new members and transfers. I have to attribute it in part to our Legion Family's involvement in the community. Parades, scouting, sports, flag ceremonies, funerals, cook offs, scholarships, Boys State, and even helping out the Salvation Army with the bells. People take notice and want to be a part of an organization like that. Let's keep up the good work and grow.

The Legion Picnic was held September 13th and the weather was beautiful. Thanks S.A.L.. We figured about



150 people took advantage of the event. Great food, company, and what a view. If you attended, thanks for bringing a dish. If you didn't, there's always next year. During the picnic the Legion Riders presented Jack VanWeelden with a plaque of appreciation for his efforts in landing the Veteran's Wall at our Post during Coast Guard week. Congrats!

October's Post meeting on the 6th will include voting on bids for roof improvements and snow removal. I urge the membership to get involved in your Post. It's much, much more than a cocktail with

a view. Thanks.

New members include: John Hammond, Steve Ballard, Clarence Lawson, John Zimonick, Jeremy Meller, Gary Ward, Dick Arens, Greg Keast, Stan Schoenborn, David Bolan, with transfers: Mike Schroeder, William Kirk, Robert Kramer, and Jack Bricker. A moment of silence was observed for Gerard D. Alvord, Warren E. Mastenbrook, and Corporal Nicholas Ryan Roush, recently killed in action in Afghanistan. Freedom is not free. God Bless America.

Come see us at the Post,
Commander Rick Chittenden

VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 11th, 2009

This year's Veteran's Day celebration will be held at the Post the evening of November 11th, with social hour starting at 6pm. It will be the "old fashion" way with veterans only in attendance. My World War II friends will be our special guests. They will have their own special table and even eat first. How about that, Larry? Cost is \$7 in advance. 200 tickets will be sold. We will have a 50/50 drawing and hopefully a couple nice prizes to raffle off. A guest speaker has yet to be announced, but I'm working on it. Jeannie and the Ladies Auxilliary will be preparing another delicious meal. Tickets should be available in a week or so. I'm asking my Vietnam Brothers and Sisters to support this celebration and attend. It should be a good time.

See you there, Commander Chittenden

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Legion would like to send out Christmas cards to our service men and women that are on active duty. I know Christmas is four month away, time seems to go by fast. I have also been in contact with two schools in the area to get names so the kids can send Christmas cards. If you can send me your family members name and address we can start getting a list together that would be great. You can send it to the Post or you can E-mail me. mackeda1@aol.com. American Legion 700 Harbor Avenue Grand Haven, MI. 49417 .
1st Vice Commander David L. MacKellar

This report didn't make it last month, but I would like to start this article with a big thank you to all who helped and enjoyed this year's Coast Guard Festival. We really know how to support current and previous members of the Coast Guard and their families. This might sound like the same old call for volunteers, but we need additional teams to cook burgers on Friday nights. It's really a lot of fun! Find 5 or 6 of your friends who enjoy food and fellowship (if you know what I mean). I would personally help your crew get started or have you help with one of our nights to get to know your way around the kitchen. We hope to get more teams so we don't burn out our current help. Please leave me a note Doc Waldie - House Committee. (PS - Sign-up is at the Post Lounge.)

On a less upbeat note it has been brought to the House Committee's attention that members and guests are bringing drinks up to the deck out thru the west door. This is illegal and needs to stop immediately! Our bartenders get busy and can't always monitor each person. It is up to our membership to monitor and correct these activities. People are also walking around the fenced in area of the Patio with drinks when the area is crowded. This too is illegal and must stop.

Upcoming events you won't want to miss are: College football games Saturday afternoons. Karaoke is scheduled Oct. 3rd and get your tickets soon for the "Steak & Boiled Shrimp Dinner" on Oct. 24th.

In closing the next time you are at the Post, look across the street and notice the new planting of shrubs and bark. Our Legion family paid for the landscape and provided the planting labor. It looks GREAT!

Doc Waldie - House Committee, Chairperson

Calendar of Events

- January
 - Happy New Year!
 - Las Vegas Night
- February
 - Chili Cook-Off
 - Hawaiian Luau
- March
 - American Legion Birthday Party
 - Annual Food Drive
 - St. Patrick's Day Party
 - Texas Hold 'Em
- April
 - IRS Party
 - Armed Forces Day
- May
 - Memorial Day
 - Kentucky Derby Party
 - Legion Memorial Golf Outing
- June
 - Flag Day
- July
 - Independence Day
- August
 - Coast Guard Festival
 - Enlisted Men's Party
 - BBQ Chicken
- September
 - American Legion Picnic
- October
 - Oktoberfest Party
- November
 - Veteran's Day Dinner
 - Saturday Football Parties
 - Trivia Begins
 - Happy Thanksgiving!
- December
 - Goodfellows Toy Drive
 - Children's Christmas Party
 - Christmas Buffet
 - New Year's Eve Party
 - Merry Christmas!

Every Month

- 1st Tuesday
 - House 6pm
 - Post 7pm
- Every Monday
 - Building & Grounds 9am
- 2nd Monday
 - SAL Meeting 7:30pm
- 2nd Tuesday
 - 8 & 40 Meeting 7:00pm
- 2nd Thursday
 - Legion Riders 7:00pm
- 4th Tuesday
 - Auxiliary Meeting 7pm
- 1st Saturday
 - Karaoke
- Every Wednesday
 - Dinner 5-7pm
- All Fridays
 - Burgers 6-8pm



AUXILIARY



August Meeting – We voted to donate \$200.00 towards the “Cookie and Coffee” fund and \$1000.00 towards the Holiday gift shop at the Veterans Home. We will also contribute \$200.00 for the Boardwalk Renovation. We heard from 4 of the “Girls State Delegates.

They all reported on a great learning experience and found many new possibilities for themselves in the future. September Meeting – We will be looking for volunteers to shop on November 4th for the Veterans Gift Shop. We need help putting together Fruit Plates for area Nursing Homes in December. We still need Chairs for the following Committees...Americanism,

Junior Activities, National Security, Publications and Public Relations. Thank you to those who stepped forward for other Committees. Our October meeting will be a pot luck supper with District President and 1st Vice President as guests. Social at 6 with dinner and initiation to follow at 6:30. Anyone who has not been initiated yet should call Michele at 847-8424. Three members went to Fall Conference on Sept. 18 & 19 in Rosville. Some of our Unit Past Pres. went to Cedar Springs to meet with Past Presidents from other units. 8&40-Time to pay dues and new members will be initiated at the meeting on Oct 13. Call Ann Kammeraad at 842-6541 for more info. Our next meeting is October 27th. Hope to see you there! Meetings have been kept under one hour!



Pictured Left to Right: Sergeant-At-Arms Ed DeKoekkoek, Penny “Peel” Stevenson, Honor Guard Leader George Bennett and Chaplain Chris Tanke.

Grand Haven American Legion Charles A. Conklin Post #28
1st Vice Commander David L. MacKellar

Family Donates Flag to Grand Haven American Legion

Family members of Korean War Veteran S/Sgt. Donald G. Peel donated his flag to the Grand Haven, American Legion, Charles A. Conklin Post #28. S/Sgt. Peel passed away in 2000. The family wanted the flag to fly at the Legion. Penny “Peel” Stevenson presented the flag to Sergeant-At-Arms Ed DeKoekkoek, Honor Guard Leader George Bennett and Post Chaplain Chris Tanke.

Ten family members attended a ceremony on the front lawn at the post on August 13, 2009. With Chaplain Chris Tanke thanking the Peel family for honoring the Legion with this great gift. Honor Guard members Ray Ribbink, George Bryant and Jim Walton installed the new flag and Bugler Perry Delille played “To the Colors” as the flag was raised to its new home in front of the Legion. The flag will be flown until it is unserviceable. Then it will be replaced and destroyed during a “Flag Burning Ceremony.”

Honor Guard

This past month we had 4 funerals. Funerals for Warren Mastenbrook and Robert VanderSchoor were attended by both VFW and American Legion. Members Ken Kelly, George Bennett and Dave MacKellar went to funeral for Corporal Nicholas Roush in Middleville, Mi. Honor Guard attended flag program for Don Peel family. Members went to Ferry School and Spring Lake Alternative Education School. Honor Guard and Rifle Team attended “Patriot Day” program at the Legion. Honor Guard Leader George Bennett

Chaplains Corner

On August 13th the Post had the privilege of honoring Don Peel’s service to his county in the Korean Conflict, by accepting the donation of his burial flag to the post by his loving family. As the ceremony closed and we raised the flag on the front lawn flag pole, I could only imagine the pride and appreciation that his family and friends must have felt for his service to his country! Thanks to all involved in this moving celebration of a fallen patriot, including our own Rifle Team. You know, like many of you, the main reason I joined #28 was to give a little back to those who gave so much for me and my family. All involved with this event agreed that we would like to see more opportunities to raise and fly flags at the post in memoriam of service men and women. If you are interested in dedicating a flag of a deceased family member in this way, contact the post and we’ll discuss arrangements.
God bless the USA, Chaplain Chris



The American Legion Newsletter

Charles Conklin Post #28
700 Harbor Avenue
P.O. Box 439
Grand Haven, MI 49417-1743

Post #28 American Legion Officers

Dale “Rick” Chittenden, *Commander*
David MacKellar, *1st Vice Commander*
Phil Smith, *2nd Vice Commander*
Butch Balk, *Adjutant*
Jim Thayer, *Finance Officer*
Chris Tanke, *Chaplain*
Hugh Hyde, *Judge Advocate*
Ed DeKoekkoek, *Sergeant-At-Arms*
Jim Walton, Ken Kelly, *Service Officers*
George Bryant, *Historian*
Ray Ribbink & Jack VanWeelden,
Executive Board at Large

Post #28 SAL Officers

TL Lowe, *Commander*
Rob Wolniakowski, *1st Vice Commander*
Charlie Yonker, *2nd Vice Commander*
Rich Kelly, *Finance Officer*
Tom Glockzin, *Chaplain*
Tom Greensberg, *Sergeant-At-Arms*
Jeff VanderVeen, *Historian*
Alan VanDam, *Past Commander*
Howard Mattson, *Post SAL Chairman*
Mike Mattson, *Membership Chair*
Jeff VanderWeen, *Adjutant*

Post #28 Auxiliary Officers

Jean Wolniakowski, *President*
Cleophipps, *1st Vice President*
Linda Gieske, *2nd Vice President*
Ann Kammeraad, *Secretary*
Romayne Althaus, *Treasurer*
Veloce Hansen, *Chaplain*
Ann Kammeraad & Cleophipps,
Historian
Char Mac Keller, *Sergeant-At-Arms*
Jean Koehs, *Past President*
Ina Kaufman, *Parliamentarian*
Mollie Pipp, Pat Best & Ruth Rescorla,
Executive Board

Post Hours

Mon. - Fri. 2pm - 10pm+
Sat. Noon - 10pm+

SAL STEAK AND SHRIMP DINNER

OCT. 24, 2009

Cocktails starting at 6pm

Dinner starting at 7pm

Entertainment starting at 8pm

Featuring the band

“Soule’d Out”

Tickets for sale at the bar

\$15.00 per person

Andy's Draught

It's hard to believe that it has already been three years that I have been your Post Manager. Hopefully after my review with the Personnel Committee I will be here at least one more. Keep your fingers crossed.

Membership is through the roof for Legion, Auxiliary & SAL. These are just rough numbers, but I have heard the Legion is up over 1400 members, the Auxiliary is over 700 & SAL 500+. We are a Post that people want to be a part of. We are becoming a destination, a place people want to come to. That says a lot about who we are & what we are about.

I have added the football schedules for MSU & U of M to our calendar. The times may change due to many of the games are TBA, but the dates are correct. October 3rd the MSU vs U of M party is on. Bring a dish to pass. Come down to watch the game & stay for karaoke.

Keep your eye on the calendar for upcoming dinners, bands & events.

October drink specials: \$2.00 Bloody Mary, \$2.00 U call tall every Monday & \$1 12oz can beer every Tuesday.

Cheers! Andy



The cool summer has changed to a warm and wonderful September. This past Sunday the Legion Picnic was held at the post. After the past 3 years of rain and or cold weather, we were finally blessed with an outstanding day of sunshine.

The turn-out was great and provided another opportunity for the Legion family to share food, laughter, and create new memories here at the American Legion. I would like to thank the many members from the Legion family (Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL) who were there to help set up, cook, bring food to share, and to clean-up afterwards. It was truly amazing to see the cooperation and willingness to help from beginning to end.

The SAL will be moving their meetings to the first Monday of the month beginning in October 5th. The exception will be if a holiday falls on the first Monday then we will move to the second Monday that month.

A big thank you goes to the group of workers who helped with the Landscape Project across the street from the post. The following people donated their time and assistance to this worthy project: Mike Mattson, Phil Smith, Alan and Gloria VanDam, Brian, Viening, and Paul Kubicek.

The Michigan Vietnam Wall on the lawn of our

Post was an excellent tribute to deceased Michigan veterans. Our squadron made a donation to this honorable project.

At our August meeting we approved 3 SAL transfers including; Earl Jorgenson, Randall Bolitho and Steven Rolston. We also approved 18 new SAL members consisting of; Kurt Gillespie, Danial Way, Greg Fisher, Dan McWilliams, Lee Dreese, Magda Smolenska, Kirsten Runschke, Jurgen Runschke, Christopher Schupples, Jami Draft, James Morrissey, Steven Morrissey, Steven Morrissey Jr., Patrick Sorrelle, Kris Wierenga, Dino Paganelli, Richard Willis, and Steve Vanderwall.

Football season has moved into full gear so you should plan to meet at the Post on Saturdays and Sundays to enjoy big screen TVs with your friends and family while the nice weather is still upon us.

Mark your calendar and plan on joining us on October 24th for the Steak and Shrimp Boil. Tickets are \$15.00 per person and can be purchased from your friendly bartender. Sould' Out will be providing our musical entertainment.

An update on Howard Mattson. He is doing much better and is currently at Mercy General. He will be working on regaining his strength and working on eating solid foods again. Please keep him in your thought and prayers during his time of recovery.

TL Lowe – SAL Commander

Budget cuts have affected the American Legions ability to support veterans with VA claims. Mr. Raymond Moore will be the new Field Service Officer (FSO) for our area. His number is 231-979-1689. He works the Muskegon office on Mondays and Grand Rapids on Tuesdays. Post 28 Service Officer Ken Kelly has done a phenomenal job at helping our members here at Post 28. Post 28 Service Officers are committed to helping all veterans with answering questions, explaining and assisting with VA forms and claims. The best use of effort begins with the individual veteran becoming familiar with the benefits available. Now more than ever, doing some due diligence up front saves time and increases success rate of claim approval. Then team up with the post Service Officers to iron out questions that may remain. The Field Service Officer can take it from there. When we provide the FSO with a strong claim and clean forms he will be able to concentrate on pushing it through the VA system with more vigor.

The 2009 Edition of VA's Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors booklet is available online. The booklet provides the rates for certain federal payments and outlines many programs and services provided by VA and other federal agencies. (La versión en Español) The web site is located at http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.asp To view PDF documents, you need the free PDF viewer. For more details on anything mentioned above, please contact me or Ken. Onward and Upwards,
Jim Walton Post 28 Service Officer
Phone:616-405-5745 email:jim.walton01@yahoo.com



Ferry School

Honor Guard members Ray Ribbink, Tom Streng, Dave MacKellar, Larry Kuiper, George Bennett and Jake Westra were at Ferry School for the 1st day of school on Sept. 8, 2009. American Legion presented the school with a new flag on May 21, 2009 during the schools "Patriot Hall" program. Members returned for the 1st day of school, to install the flag at their "Flag Pole" program. Were all the students are outside and sing songs and thanked the Legion for being there.

Heroes Memorial Monument update. At the present time the committee is in the process of contacting the Grand Haven City Council primary election candidates who were nominated to run in the November election for the 2 council seats to be vacated.

We have already had 1 candidate, Dennis Scott, attend our September meeting and received favorable input from him to put the Heroes Monument in Grand Haven Central Park. Ironically, all of the committee members in attendance at the meeting lived outside the Grand Haven City voting area.

We are planning to invite all of the remaining 3 candidates to our October meeting on Tuesday Oct 13 at 6:30pm. But in the meantime we ask all of you Grand Haven City voters to contact them and request them to vote favorably (yes) on locating the Heroes Monument in Central Park. Robert Monetza 945 Washington (616) 846-3027, Dennis Scott 1530 Waverly (616) 846-1353, Loren Lothschutz 418 Lafayette (616) 842-5620, Chad Lahey 1123 Fulton (616) 402-6362.



The American Legion
 Charles Conklin Post #28
 700 Harbor Avenue
 P.O. Box 439
 Grand Haven, MI 49417-1743
 (616) 842-5310

NON-PROFIT
 ORG.
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 129
 GRAND HAVEN
 MI 49417



Legion Picnic Sept. 13, 2009
 On the front lawn at the Legion.

OCTOBER DRINK SPECIALS: \$2.00 BLOODY MARY							OCTOBER 2009						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 6pm BURGERS 8pm Lakeshore Big Band	3 MSU vs UofM 6pm Karaoke						
4	5 \$2 U-Call Tall	6 6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	7 5pm Lake Perch Dinner	8 7pm Legion Riders	9 6pm BURGERS 8pm Silvertones Band	10 12pm MSU @ Illinois 7pm UofM @ Iowa							
11	12 7:30pm SAL Meeting \$2 U-Call Tall	13 7pm 8 & 40 Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	14 5pm Spaghetti Dinner	15	16 6pm BURGERS 8pm Silverado Band	17 UofM vs Delaware St. 12pm MSU vs Northwestern							
18	19 \$2 U-Call Tall	20 7pm Exec. Comm \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	21 5pm Roast Pork Dinner	22	23 6pm BURGERS	24 UofM vs Penn St. 6pm SAL Steak & Shrimp 7pm MSU vs Iowa							
25	26 \$2 U-Call Tall	27 7pm Aux Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	28 5pm Swiss Steak Dinner	29	30 6pm BURGERS 8pm Steve Edge	31 HALLOWEEN UofM @ Illinois 8pm MSU@Minnesota							
NOV. 1	2 \$2 U-Call Tall	3 6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	4 5pm Lake Perch Dinner	5	6 6pm BURGERS 8pm Lakeshore Big Band	7 UofM vs Purdu MSU vs W. Michigan							